

in terms of crime prevention and crime solving, but we need to remember that there are only so many available law enforcement officers at a given time. As our society grows, the demands placed on these individuals have also increased tremendously.

The falling crime rate has largely benefited urban and suburban areas, so it is important to remember our rural constituencies also need our help in fighting crime. Officer safety and the ability to investigate major crimes are often compromised by a lack of resources in rural areas. One of the local police chiefs in a small town in my district recently told me that his main concern at home is not Al Qaeda infiltrating the town—it's making sure that the middle school down the streets is drug free and safe.

I truly thank the members of law enforcement across this nation for their service and I commit to working in support of both homeland security and domestic security.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 613, recognizing Vietnam Human Rights Day. This resolution marks the tenth anniversary of the day the Manifesto of the Nonviolent Movement for Human Rights in Vietnam was announced. This landmark document was written in 1994 by the great human rights leader Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, who called for an end to human rights violations in Vietnam.

Dr. Que is one of the most prominent advocates for democracy, freedom and human rights in Vietnam. He has remained in Vietnam since 1975, after the fall of Saigon and the departure of the last American troops. Even in the face of significant peril, Dr. Que defied the communist regime by speaking out in defense of human dignity and the rights of all Vietnamese people. He has been imprisoned intermittently for the past 20 years, and remains under constant supervision and subject to frequent harassment by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He continues his struggle in order to focus the world's attention to the thousands of his countrymen and fellow dissidents who are also harassed, tortured or imprisoned for openly criticizing the government.

One such dissident is Father Thaddeus Nguyen Ly, a Roman Catholic priest who was invited to testify before the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in 2001. Although he was denied permission to leave his country to testify in person, his statement cited several specific actions taken by the Government of Vietnam that violated religious freedom and which he described as "extremely cruel." He called for a "non violent and persistent campaign" to achieve full religious freedom for all people in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese government imprisoned Father Ly on the basis of that testimony. He was branded a traitor for "slandering" the Communist party, and "distorting" the religious pol-

icy of the government. Father Ly was arrested and tried without the benefit of counsel. In a trial that lasted only a single day, he was convicted of all charges and sentenced to fifteen years in prison and an additional five years of administrative probation. Father Ly's nephews were also imprisoned, further demonstrating this case of egregious oppression of human rights and its devastating impact on Father Ly's family.

Mr. Speaker, it has been ten years since the United States ended its trade embargo with Vietnam and normalized relations with Hanoi under the policy known as "constructive engagement," which has proven effective with our previously closed societies in which human rights violations were prevalent. While the U.S. continues to open diplomatic relations with Vietnam, we must continue to advance constructive engagement to ensure a more open, democratic and prosperous Vietnamese society. It is our responsibility to promote greater freedom of speech and religion and greater respect for basic human rights in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, human rights shall always remain a firm pillar of U.S. foreign policy. Accordingly, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for introducing this important resolution and I urge my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS WHO SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II, THE AMERICANS WHO SUP- PORTED THE WAR, AND CELE- BRATING THE COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 409, which recognizes the 16,000,000 Americans who served in the armed forces during World War II and the millions more who supported them at home. As the dedication of the National World War II Memorial and the 60th anniversary of D-Day approach, our country will rightfully be thinking of those Americans who bravely gave or risked their lives to a great cause.

I remain in awe of this generation, of men who accepted the call to travel around the world to spend years fighting in the Asian and Pacific theaters, and of women who kept the country running by assuming jobs in factories, growing victory gardens, and serving overseas in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and other capacities.

It has been my good fortune to spend some time with veterans and their families in my home district of western Wisconsin, and I always enjoy hearing their stories of wartime. In fact, it was the experience of listening to my uncle, a World War II veteran, that inspired me to introduce legislation creating The Veterans Oral History Project. Almost four years after becoming public law, the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress has collected 16,000 stories and is working at a feverish pace to collect more everyday. This living legacy is testament to the millions of Americans who sacrificed so much during World War II.

Now, almost 60 years after the end of the war, a monument has at last been built in our nation's capital that pays tribute to the generation that fought and won World War II. The monument, set in the middle of the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument, will remind all visitors to the city that World War II was the defining event of the 20th Century and the seminal point for what is often and aptly called "the Greatest Generation."

THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Sudan today.

Sudan is the ninth largest country in the world and Africa's largest. The wars of Sudan have killed more people than in Kosovo, Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia combined, most of them civilians. For the best part of 50 years, peace has eluded the people of Southern Sudan.

Southern Sudan has not only been neglected by Northern Sudan, it has also been neglected by the world.

It is estimated that more than 3 million people have been uprooted from their homes and the numbers of dead are unknown.

Destruction of homes, huts, crops and agricultural areas, wells, shops and entire villages are systematically taking place. Women report that they would be kidnapped and raped if they went any further than one and one-half kilometers away from their camp to collect wood or to tend to their vegetables.

These actions have resulted in a dire human rights and humanitarian crisis.

Neighboring governments have generously received Sudanese refugees. It is estimated that over 110,000 Sudanese refugees are in Chad; 223,000 are in Uganda; 88,000 are in Ethiopia; 69,000 in Democratic Republic of the Congo and 60,000 are in Kenya.

Women arrive in refugee camps already greatly traumatized by hardship and loss. They may have walked for months through hostile territory, living on wild fruits and drinking water from puddles. Often the weaker members of their family, particularly, their children, have died along the way.

In a Kenyan refugee camp, a Southern Sudanese woman says, "We flee the Sudan and our problems follow us. The security is fine but it's an alien environment—hot and windy, no grass or rain or water. We get homesick for familiar surroundings. Most people who came here have died even though there's a hospital. The place where they bury people is full. Now they have started another one."

Mr. Speaker, the United States must do everything in its power to encourage the government of the Sudan to end this abuse.

Although this current conflict was initiated by rebel forces, the government of the Sudan has a legal responsibility to protect all its citizens and uphold the law.

We must act immediately to prevent the recurrence of the human rights that have already taken place and act swiftly to restore